

LIFTING THE PALL



Germany and Hitler In Their True Light

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Stand on Democracy—A Man of Peace, he Reorganizes
The Fuehrer's Rise—Cause of his Popularity—His World Policy and

The Jewish Boycott—The Truth Suppressed.

BY

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The Portrait of Germany and Hitler That We Americans Are Not Allowed To See.

By R. C. DASHER

How do you explain Hitler's rise from the position of an obscure house-painter to that of Germany's dictator?

Answer—Like so many fair-tales concerning the German leader, this is just another fiction of the same complexion. Hitler is an artist of considerable ability. He may have painted houses to tide him over a period of cruel necessity. Granting this, his career may well remind us that Abraham Lincoln was a rail splitter, President Garfield a tow-boy on a canal, and that Shakespeare was not prevented by humble home surroundings from becoming the world's greatest dramatist. And the term "Dictator" is misapplied to Hitler. He has on three different occasions polled an unprecedented plurality and actual majority of the German vote. In 1930 the Nazis polled only 6,400,000 out of a total of 37,000,000 votes. In 1932 his support at the polls registered 13,732,779 and his party captured 230 seats in the Reichstag. On March 5, 1933, the Nazis polled 17,265,800 votes out of a total of 39,192,000, and together with their allies, the Nationalists, 20,381,500. The Communists and Socialists in that election piled up 11,852,000 votes, an indication of their strength in the nation. On March 23 of the same year the Reichstag expressed its confidence in the leader by voting 441 to 94 for a cabinet government under Hitler for four years. In his latest appeal to the German people for endorsement of his actions in 1934, 38,000,000 votes were cast for him in secret ballot. The popularity of Hitler may be further gauged by the fact that the population of the Saar Valley on January 13, 1935, voted 477,119 to 48,762 for the return of the province to Germany, only 2,249 voting for annexation to France. It should not be forgotten that many of the dissenting votes were cast by persons exiled from Germany and inspired by hatred of its leader. From this it must be plain that Hitler did not gain his power by a coup d'etat but governs by the consent of the governed.

How is the remarkable popularity of Hitler with the German people to be accounted for?

Answer—Animated from infancy in his Austrian home by enthusiastic admiration for the homeland of his race—particularly Bismarck—he attested his loyalty to his

ideal in manhood by serving in the German army as a volunteer, earning repeated marks of official distinction for his soldierly conduct. Appalled by the reign of terror created throughout Germany by the Communist allies of the Russian Bolsheviks, after the war, he felt moved—as perhaps Joan d'Arc felt moved—by a single purpose, to uproot the source of Germany's internal disorders, so far as lay in his power. With only six others he organized the National Socialist Labor Party and for fourteen years fought the entrenched enemies within at the head of his ever increasing following—years of ambuscades, bloody street fights and murder, in which hundreds of his men were slain and thousands wounded. This following was recruited not from the idle and disinherited, but from men of intelligence, many of them persons of prominence and influence, running the gamut from the simple workman to men of the dignity of General Ludendorff. Only a man of unbending sincerity, courage and iron principles could have carried on all those years without losing heart or forfeiting popular confidence. With a program of regeneration that appealed to every patriot, he gained battle after battle and on his accession to power, struck remorselessly at the root of the causes that threatened to deliver the Fatherland into the hands of the Russian Communists. He found Germany morally diseased and politically corrupt, and none better than President Hindenburg recognized Hitler as the outstanding figure with the capacity to clean the Augean stables when he appointed him Chancellor.

What is Hitler's world policy?

Answer—Hitler's world policy is clearly foreshadowed not only in his speeches promising peace, but in the trend of things—namely, to make Germany independent in the broadest sense, too strong to be attacked with impunity, self-reliant and free from entanglements with other powers over questions of world-wide competition. Germany wants her share of the world markets, certainly. An industrial nation of 65,000,000 needs colonies and must have returned to her the colonies mandated to the peace-makers of Versailles. She needs raw materials and an outlet for her surplus population. But she will not compete with other powers in

naval strength. Her navy will be limited to the defense of her home waters, as her army will be to the defense of her open borders. Militarism will be taboo. She hopes to come to an understanding with Poland in time about the Polish Corridor, which, along with Wilson's ceding South Tyrol to Italy, was one of the most mischievous, illogical and vindictive acts ever dictated to a proud, progressive and free nation. Industries will be fostered, but agriculture is being specially favored by the reclamation of thousands of acres of waste land to provide homesteads. In the vast scheme of national socialism in its best sense, the breaking up of the great Junker estates is included, a significant sign of the non-militarist trend of the government, since from these estates chiefly came the men that officered the famous Prussian army.

In what light should Hitler be regarded by Americans?

Answer—Certainly not in the light cast upon him by those whose interest it is to make him appear odious and detestable, but as a patriot in his own country, who has performed miracles in snatching his people from the brink of ruin and despair, putting them back on their feet in a few short years. Few men are judged fairly by their sworn enemies or the victims of ignorance. In the eyes of his opponents, George Washington was a "Hun" and Lincoln deserving of the assassin's bullet. (The designation of "Hun" was literally applied to Washington long before it fell to the lot of the Germans to bear that stigma). If we would understand the man and his popularity, we should judge Hitler from the standpoint of the Germans, since we have no political reason for taking a distorted view of him and his mission.

Is he not an avowed enemy of democracy?

Answer—On that subject let us quote his own statement in his speech of May 21, 1935, before the Reichstag: "I often hear from Anglo-Saxon countries expressions of regret that Germany has departed from the principles of democracy, which in those countries are held particularly sacred. This opinion is entirely erroneous. Germany too, has a democratic constitution. The present National Socialist government also has been elected by the people and feels itself responsible to the people. The German people have elected with 38,000,000 votes a single Deputy as their representative. This is perhaps the sole essential difference between the German Reich and other countries. It means however, that I feel just as much responsibility to the people as any parliament can".

What, if any, influence can or should the United States exercise on the pending controversial issues in Germany?

Answer—Our best policy would be to mind our own business. To quote from the introduction of E. Alexander Powell's book, "The Long Roll on the Rhine", page 6: "I maintain that we are not going to improve conditions in Germany for the Jews or anyone else by our constant theming on German insincerity and crookedness, nor our morose interpretations of every move of the Nazi Government as fraught with the dishonorable and the sinister. That it is hypocritical for us to excoriate the Reich for tendering its resignation to the League of Nations, which we have persistently refused to join. That it is insincere to ridicule the menace of Communism in Germany while we are secretly apprehensive of Communist designs in this country. That it is manifestly unfair to single out the Nazis for condemnation for muzzleing the Press, bringing the trades unions under the control of the State, and suppressing all political opposition, while at the same time offering the hand of friendship to Fascist Italy and Communist Russia, which for years have been doing precisely the same thing. We have made the mistake of viewing events in Germany through spectacles clouded with animosity and suspicion. We have attached too much importance to flamboyant speeches intended for home consumption; we have failed to distinguish between those which were propagandists and those which stated Germany's fundamental and legitimate aims. We have subordinated realism to idealism. It doubtless sounds callous and heartless, but, viewed realistically, in the cold light of practical politics, the misfortunes of 600,000 Jews, however deplorable, are relatively unimportant compared with the fortunes of 65,000,000 Germans. The truth is, that as regards the trend of events in Germany, the American Government and the American people have been persistently misinformed."

Is Hitler at heart a man of peace? If so, why is he reorganizing the German army in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles?

Answer—He is regarded a man of peace not only by his own nation but by leading statesmen, churchmen and others in England,—the Archbishop of Canterbury, the "London Times", Lloyd George, among others. England is the first of the allied nation that has accepted Hitler's pledge of a peaceful policy and entered into a naval agreement with the German Government, as Poland has agreed to a mutual peace pact. Hitler is not a phrase-maker, but what he says is the convincing outpouring of a soul given to truth and sin-

cerity. In one speech he declared that he would be willing to disband the last army unit if the Allies would comply with the covenant which they themselves embodied in the Treaty of Versailles, to disarm when Germany was disarmed. That agreement never was kept, and accordingly he announced that he would no longer be bound by so one-sided an exaction. And speaking on the Saar plebiscite, he said: "German fellow countrymen of the Saar, your decision makes it possible for me today solemnly to declare that, once your reunion with Germany is completed, we shall raise no further territorial question with France." France alone is the stumbling block to peace in Europe. No less a personage than Mussolini on March 18, 1934, declared that as the Allies refused to disarm, Germany was justified in rearming. In his speech of May 1, 1935, Hitler said, "Our strength lies not in cannons and marching battalions, but in the unity of our people and its idealistic faith. Just as we restored peace in Germany, we want peace abroad, because only then can we work out our domestic problems successfully."

Have Hitler's domestic policies worked out successfully?

Answer—On May 6, 1935, the New York Times printed a Berlin dispatch from its own correspondent, which stated: "Since Hitler came to power, unemployment dropped from 6,000,000 to 2,400,000; the industrial index rose from 9,900,000,000 to 12,700,000,000 marks. The retail turnover increased 16 per cent and capital values grew through the rise in the stock index from 64.5 to 90." On August 10 the Times correspondent reported that the unemployed had dropped to 1,700,000. Former Ambassador Alanson B. Houghton, on his return from Europe aboard the liner Bremer said: "Conditions in Germany are surprisingly good. There are no idle men around the streets, no tramps, no beggars, and unemployment, which has been reduced to 2,000,000 men, will probably be wiped out within a year or so. It reminds one of Germany before the war, except that you do not see soldiers. Hitler is working the thing out. The German people like order and discipline and that is what he is giving them." And former Ambassador Dr. Jacob Schurman declared, "If I were talking to Hitler I would congratulate him." To quote another man of distinction, the Rev. John Haynes Holman, of the Community Church of New York City, a Jewish partisan, though a Protestant minister, on his return from a visit to Germany, stated in the New York Times of July 12, 1935: "The spectacle of Germany today is a tremendous experience. Fifteen years after the war in which the

Allied Powers thought they had destroyed her, Germany is on her feet again. As compared with 1922 and 1931, when I saw Germany, the change is miraculous. In 1931 the German people were going to pieces. But now they are themselves again. No doubt about it. The masses of the people are increasingly with Hitler. I have been fooling myself all along that this was not so, but now I know it is so. There is nothing more important than for us to know that the Germans under Hitler are rapidly becoming a united and passionately aroused people."

Is it not true that the Nazis are persecuting Catholics and Protestants as well as Jews for their religion?

Answer—No. All forms of religion are as free in Germany as they are in the United States. General Goering, next to Hitler the most powerful man in Germany, clearly stated the Nazi policy in his edict of July 17, 1935: "The faith in God and the religion of our Catholic fellow citizens will not be touched. We allow the Catholic as well as the Protestant Church complete liberty of faith and teaching. Politically, however, only one idea of the State exists and is possible in Germany, namely, the National Socialist idea." Nor is the Catholic Church as a whole in conflict with the Nazi program for coordinating the activities of the Church in the social scheme of German unity.

On what, then, are the charges based that there is religious persecution in Germany?

Answer—Certain priests brought illegal pressure to bear on their communicants with a view to injuring the party which represents the German people, by denying them communion and burial because of their being Nazis and similarly denying communion to mothers whose sons are members of the party. Other priests and Catholic functionaries engaged in political intrigues to sabotage the work of the Hitler regime. The pretext that the Church is persecuted for its religious faith is absolutely false. No Catholic church, no synagogue has been molested in Germany. Some mob outbreaks have occurred; that could not be prevented. Priests and nuns have been arrested—not, however, for their religious convictions, but for unlawful acts proved in open court, their punishment publicly sanctioned by the Catholic press.

What of the Jews?

Answer—The more the Jewish problem is agitated in the United States, the more resentful will be the treatment accorded them in Germany. Even after Hitler came into power and before Germany left the League of Nations, he told an American

with more cotton than the United States, for the first time in history. There has been a general decline in American exports, but when we recall that Germany was our best customer before the War, next to the United Kingdom, the drop from \$344,794,276 in 1914 to present day figures shows that the boycott is a two-edged sword, and that our farmers, cotton growers, manufacturers and working men are paying the fiddler. It helps to account for the fact that in February, 1935, one-sixth of the nation was on Federal Relief and that 22,350,000 persons out of work cost the tax payers \$5,000,000 a day. (N. Y. Sun, Feb. 6, 1935). Sales to Germany in a year declined to one-sixth of the previous volume, exports shrinking from \$15,700,000 in January 1934, to \$2,000,000 in December 1934. In December 1933, Germany took \$13,576,965 of our exports, in 1934 only \$4,646,456. On April 26, Hjalmar Schacht, President of the Reichsbank, gave Germany's creditors to understand that if Germany cannot find markets for her exports, she cannot buy in foreign markets nor pay her creditors—in other words, if German goods are boycotted, Germany cannot meet her obligations to American creditors.

Is all we hear about German disturbances to be regarded as enemy propaganda?

Answer—Consider that Hitler asked for four years of freedom of action to clean "the Augean stables". He must work fast, and the domestic problems he has to face are almost overwhelming. According to Lord Marley, who addressed and organized Jewish meetings over here two win-

ters ago, secret subversive agencies are tirelessly at work trying to undermine the German government. Hence the hectic activity of the government in tackling this and other problems without delay—and this affords rich opportunity for creating hasty and prejudiced judgment. It is amazing that propaganda about purely European problems should find its richest field in the United States and to excite more rancor and domestic strife than in any other country in the world. "The frenzy with which the whole (war) propaganda was conducted in America," writes Arthur Ponsonby, M.P., in his book exposing the war lies, "surpassed anything we experienced over here." How truth may be distorted is shown by the familiar story regarding Hindenburg during the war. Precisely as propaganda nowadays contends that the Germans are substituting their ancient worship of Wotan for that of God, the Creel Bureau and its vassals declared that the Germans had established Hindenburg as their God and the German army was singing "Hindenburg ist unser Gott". The truth was that the German soldiers were singing Luther's immortal hymn, "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott" ("God is our strong fortress"). The words, "Ein' feste Burg" had been turned into "Hindenburg". What we are witnessing today is only a repetition of what we experienced during the war—propaganda based upon half-truths and outright lies, with the malicious object at this time to influence unfavorably negotiations for a trade treaty with Germany, withdrawal from the Olympic Games in 1936 and to render Hitler's position untenable.

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